

To: Diamond, Jane[Diamond.Jane@epa.gov]
From: Montgomery, Michael
Sent: Mon 9/15/2014 11:04:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Story on CA injection wells

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mogharabi, Nahal" <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>
Date: September 15, 2014 at 3:22:16 PM PDT
To: "Albright, David" <Albright.David@epa.gov>
Cc: "Johnson, AudreyL" <Johnson.AudreyL@epa.gov>, "Montgomery, Michael" <Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Story on CA injection wells

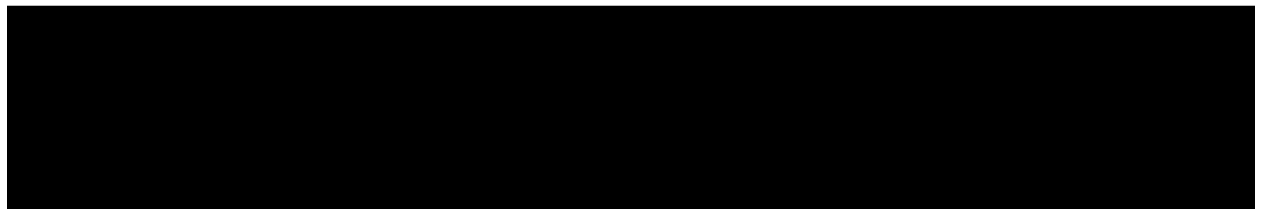
Great, thanks!!

Nahal

On Sep 15, 2014, at 3:18 PM, "Albright, David" <Albright.David@epa.gov> wrote:

Yes, go ahead Nahal. Thanks.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.



Ok. Bills changes were minor. So I think I'm going to just send given the reporter is on tight deadline.

Nahal

On Sep 15, 2014, at 2:53 PM, "Johnson, AudreyL" <Johnson.AudreyL@epa.gov> wrote:

Nahal,

Just so you know, David and Mike are out of the office until tomorrow.

Audrey L. Johnson

Life Scientist

US EPA, Region 9

Water Division, Tribal Office, WTR-10

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Email: johnson.audreyL@epa.gov

Phone: (415) 972-3431

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tribal/tribal-cwa.html#wtrpollution>

From: Mogharabi, Nahal

Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 2:52 PM

To: Albright, David; Montgomery, Michael

Cc: Johnson, AudreyL

Subject: Fwd: Story on CA injection wells

Hi Mike/David,

A couple of edits made (in bold below).

Let me know if you are ok with these.

Thanks!

Nahal

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Keener, Bill" <Keener.Bill@epa.gov>

Date: September 15, 2014 at 2:38:44 PM PDT

To: "Mogharabi, Nahal" <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>, "Zito, Kelly" <ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV>

Subject: RE: Story on CA injection wells

1. Does the EPA believe California failed to follow all aspects of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act? Does the EPA believe the state has followed all federal rules for injection wells? Why or why not?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

2. When is the EPA investigation into CA's injection wells expected to be completed?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

12. How often have oil companies failed to follow regulations regarding injection wells? How many times have the wells failed?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 2:21 PM
To: Keener, Bill; Zito, Kelly
Subject: Fwd: Story on CA injection wells

Hi Bill/Kelly,

Below are the draft response to some of the reporters questions. We are still working on the questions of the slumps which is coming out of enforcement. I will. It be able to finish those up until tomorrow. In the meantime I would like to get these few responses to the reporter ASAP. Ease review and let me know if you are good with these.

Thanks,

Nahal

1. Does the EPA believe California failed to follow all aspects of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act? Does the EPA believe the state has followed all federal rules for injection wells? Why or why not?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

2. When is the EPA investigation into CA's injection wells expected to be completed?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

12. How often have oil companies failed to follow regulations regarding injection wells? How many times have the wells failed?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: "Montgomery, Michael" <Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov>
Date: September 12, 2014 at 9:10:23 AM PDT
To: "Mogharabi, Nahal" <MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV>, "Albright, David" <Albright.David@epa.gov>
Cc: "Johnson, AudreyL" <Johnson.AudreyL@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Story on CA injection wells

Thanks David,

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Thanks

Mike

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 7:17 AM
To: Albright, David
Cc: Montgomery, Michael; Johnson, AudreyL
Subject: Re: Story on CA injection wells

Thanks, David. I will wait to hear back from Mike in case he has some additional thoughts. I will also plan on sending the reporter the public documents on this as well.

Regarding the sumps. If EPA doesn't regulate, then who does? I would like to be able to refer her to the appropriate agency.

Thanks!

Nahal

On Sep 11, 2014, at 10:54 PM, "Albright, David"
<Albright.David@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Nahal, I drafted responses for the reporter's questions that focused on injection wells. Draft responses are below. I'm off on Friday, but will monitor email.

Thanks, David

1. Does the EPA believe California failed to follow all aspects of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act? Does the EPA believe the state has followed all federal rules for injection wells? Why or why not?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

2. When is the EPA investigation into CA's injection wells expected to be completed?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

12. How often have oil companies failed to follow regulations regarding injection wells? How many times have the wells failed?

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Albright, David
Cc: Montgomery, Michael; Johnson, AudreyL
Subject: Re: Story on CA injection wells

Hi David,

Apologies for the delay, I'm having computer issues. If you could get me draft responses tomorrow morning that would be great.

Many thanks!

Nahal

On Sep 11, 2014, at 1:32 PM, "Albright, David"
<Albright.David@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Nahal, we have not received additional information from DOGGR since their Aug 18 submittal.

Regarding sumps, these are not specifically regulated by EPA, as injection wells are. However, if sumps discharged to a surface water body or contaminated GW in a manner that threatened a PWS we would have authority. Not sure if they may also be covered by SPCC requirements.

There are 3 questions dealing with injection wells. I am out of the office this afternoon but could try to draft a quick response by tomorrow morning if that is helpful.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.

From: Mogharabi, Nahal

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2014 1:07 PM

To: Montgomery, Michael; Albright, David; Johnson, AudreyL

Subject: Fwd: Story on CA injection wells

Please see the below, specific questions that the reporter has. Many of her questions are related to sumps.

Also, have we received any additional information from DOGGR?

Nahal

Begin forwarded message:

From: Hannah Guzik <hannahguzik@gmail.com>
Date: September 11, 2014 at 12:59:39 PM PDT
To: "Mogharabi, Nahal"
<MOGHARABI.NAHAL@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Story on CA injection wells

Hi Nahal,

Thanks for the response. My deadline is noon tomorrow (Friday).

Here are some questions:

1. Does the EPA believe California failed to follow all aspects of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act? Does the EPA believe the state has followed all federal rules for injection wells? Why or why not?
2. When is the EPA investigation into CA's injection wells expected to be completed?

3. I have heard that in addition to waste injection wells, there are things called waste sumps, which are unlined pits that oil companies sometimes use to hold drilling mud and other waste from drilling. Can you tell me more about these sumps? Can you describe their size and features?

4. Where have these sumps been located in CA and other states? Has the EPA tracked these sumps?

5. Are there any regulations concerning them? If so, what are they?

6. Is the EPA investigating these sumps as part of it's investigation into CA's injection wells, or does the investigation not concern the sumps?

7. Is the EPA concerned that these sumps may have polluted groundwater or soil? How about air pollution?

8. I've been told that a company in Kern County, called Vintage Petroleum, was caught putting fracking waste in one of these sumps. Has this occurred? How often and where?

9. Environmental justice groups say they're concerned that these sumps, as well as injection wells, seem to be disproportionately located near low-income communities and/or communities of color. Is this accurate? Has the EPA tracked this?

10. Can you tell me about the history of sumps in CA and nationwide? When was the first one created and where? How many have been constructed since then?

11. How often have oil companies fail to follow regulations regarding sumps (by illegally dumping other substances, etc)?

12. How often have oil companies failed to follow regulations regarding injection wells? How many times have the wells failed?

Thanks!